

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Who We Are. Where We Are Headed.
Adult Forum Mar. 22, 2022

We are The Episcopal Church in Ft. Worth.
We are trustees of The Episcopal Church.
We are Anglican – constituent members of the worldwide Anglican Communion in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury. We are hierarchical, ancient, and global.
We are Catholic and Reformed/Protestant, a peculiar expression of English Catholicism.
We are the “middle way” – *via media* – not a compromise for the sake of peace but a comprehension for the sake of truth.
We are not a club, nor are we a party. We are a church, the Church catholic.
We have as our authority Scripture, Tradition, and Reason.
We pray what we believe. We believe what we pray. (*Lex orandi, lex credendi*)
We are steeped in Scripture.
We discern Truth via God’s Word, God’s Word-made-Flesh Jesus, and God’s Creation.
We value God’s revelation in science and in history.
We hold the Sacramental Claim to be true – “matter matters” – and as such are “messy”, that is, we are an incarnational People.
We are priests. We are intercessors. We are living sacrifices – holy, set apart.
We are servants, recipients of God’s great gifts, covenant partners with God.
We gather to give, not gather to get.
We accept conflict as a reality of parish life and, in some ways, a necessity for growth in understanding what God is calling us to do.
We do not merely tolerate the different perspectives of people of good will, we value them, and we thank God for this gift to us.
We are diverse in opinion...thought...belief.
We realize that without such diversity, our parish would be deficient.
We believe that we can move forward and grow without everyone agreeing, but with an understanding that though we do not see all things the same way, we care deeply about one another and our union.
We believe that we have been knit together by God into one fellowship, and, in the words of our Lord, “Those whom God has joined together, let no one rend asunder.”
We believe that holding together as a Communion over the time it will take to work out a way forward together is of utmost importance not just for the Church but for the world.
We are not rigid. We are humble. We hold the Truth lightly, being open to changing our minds as the Holy Spirit leads us.
We are faithful and honorable and orthodox.
We are broken, pained, impoverished by schism.
We have no desire to say to any member of this parish, “We have no need of you.”
We are a missionary outpost in a hostile environment.
We are under siege – a “day of bitter controversy.”
We are a Program/Resource Church with an Average Sunday Attendance of 300/600 (in person/digital).
We desire to retain the culture of our Program/Resource parish.
We are traditional but not traditionalists.
We are and aspire to be the exemplar Episcopal congregation in our 21 County diocese.
We see great potential for the spread of our way of being Christian in a new partnership with a contiguous diocese which would have the will and resources to expand The Church in this region.
We are the Mother Church of our school, All Saints' Episcopal School.
We care of our liturgy and believe that we are stewards of this beautiful tradition, a gift from the past.
We hold in high regard our Christian Formation curriculum, Godly Play.
We value children and youth as important members of the priesthood of all believers.
We reach out beyond the walls of our parish in local, regional, and international mission and ministry.
We share the Good News of God in Christ through ministries of invitation and welcome.
We seek and serve Christ in one another.
We are rooted in the Baptismal Covenant.